

Become 'e-technology-focused professionals', not just code writers

THE last few years have seen the IT sector and its practitioners riding on some rough patches, going through events such as the dotcom bust and falling demand for IT products. So, those not yet in the field might feel that the prospects for them to enter it are not rosy. But Mr J Anton Ravindran thinks otherwise.

The CEO and co-founder of IT education provider, systems integrator and product developer, Genovate Solutions, said the outlook for the IT professional and those contemplating to get in is not as bleak as it might appear to be.

Globally, as today's economy is one that is services-driven, the need for IT expertise remains and more will continue to grow, said Mr Ravindran.

"But in this new economy, programmers must be IT professionals and not just code writers," he said. They have to understand business issues so that they can provide technology that can serve their companies' business needs better. "It requires an understanding of how technology affects the return on investment while giving the firm a competitive edge from existing and new revenue streams."

To help those who are interested to attain these traits, Genovate runs the Certified E-technology Enterprise Professional (Ceep) programme – a 552-hour hands-on course designed for individuals with a non-infocomm background.

The course helps students to become "e-technology-focused professionals", with

the skill and practical know-how to do technical development by utilising technologies such as Java, XML and Linux.

Moderated by the UK's University of Sunderland, Ceep's objective is "to increase an individual's employability in the technology industry and to increase the career potential for those making intra-organisational moves into the technology units of their organisations", Genovate said.

One area of importance to new entrants to the field as well as existing IT practitioners is that of Web services, said Mr Ravindran. In a nutshell, Web services allows companies and governments to provide services to their customers and citizens, respectively, via the Internet.

"But there is not enough awareness among IT and business people on what Web services is, the relevant technologies and what it can do for businesses,"

Mr Ravindran said. "So, there is a need to educate three groups of people – application developers; those with the expertise in legacy technologies such as middleware (software that bridges older technologies with Internet-based ones); and business managers – to help them understand the commercial benefits of Web services."

Mr Ravindran emphasised that for a firm to best take advantage of the benefits of Web services applications, its deployment team should understand the business logic, business flow and the business process of the enterprise. – *Sol E Solomon*